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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China (Sinkiang)

SUBJECT Map of Kuldja Airfield/Soviet Training of Chinese Air Force Personnel/Air Warfare

DATE DISTR. 2 July 53

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SUPP. TO
REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Soviets built the "Kuldja Aerodrome" or "Old Aerodrome" and the buildings. See enclosed map and key to this map, which is an extension of the Map of Kuldja. After completion of this airfield and the necessary buildings, they established there a school for giving Chinese Air Force cadets instruction in flight, navigation, bombing, gunnery and mechanics. The capacity of this school was 500 students, of this number approximately 200 were always student pilots.
2. In conjunction with this Soviet training program, they based, at the Kuldja airfield, 19 UT-2 Yakovlev, single engine, two place advance trainers, 17 I-15 Istribuk aircraft, 18 U-16 Istribuk elementary trainers and 17 Katiusha bombers. Some Chinese students and all Soviet instructors were billeted right on the airfield. The overflow of Chinese students were billeted in the Arimbak Residential District of Kuldja.
3. This Soviet school continued to train Chinese aviators right up to the time of the Soviet sponsored Moslem uprising on 11 Nov 44. The greatest number of Chinese aviators were trained from 1939 to 1941, when they also transported disassembled aircraft to assist the Chinese in their war with Japan. At the time of the uprising, the Soviets arrested and imprisoned all of the Chinese students and personnel at the Kuldja Airfield and used the planes and the Kuldja and Fayental Airfields to bomb and strafe the retreating Chinese troops.

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4. In the ensuing warfare which resulted in the separation of the Ili, Tarbagatai and Altai Regions from the rest of Sinkiang and the establishment of the East Turkestan People's Republic, both Chinese and Soviet military aircraft participated in the struggle. Soviet planes were based at the Kuldja and Paoyentai Airfields and Chinese planes at Khami, Urumchi and Shikho. In 1945 the airfield that was most used by the Chinese aircraft in their attacks on the Moslem forces, the one at Shikho, was itself bombed eight times by Soviet planes and rendered unfit for use. This practically stopped Chinese air efforts and resulted in the rapid advance of the Moslem forces to the Manass River. During this same period, Chinese planes, based at Tiaoju Airfield, in Urumchi, bombed and strafed Mongolian troops who had also entered the war on the side of the Moslems and had advanced almost to Kuchengtze (Kitai).

5. [REDACTED] the Soviets again instituted a program of instructing Chinese pilots at the Kuldja Airfield.

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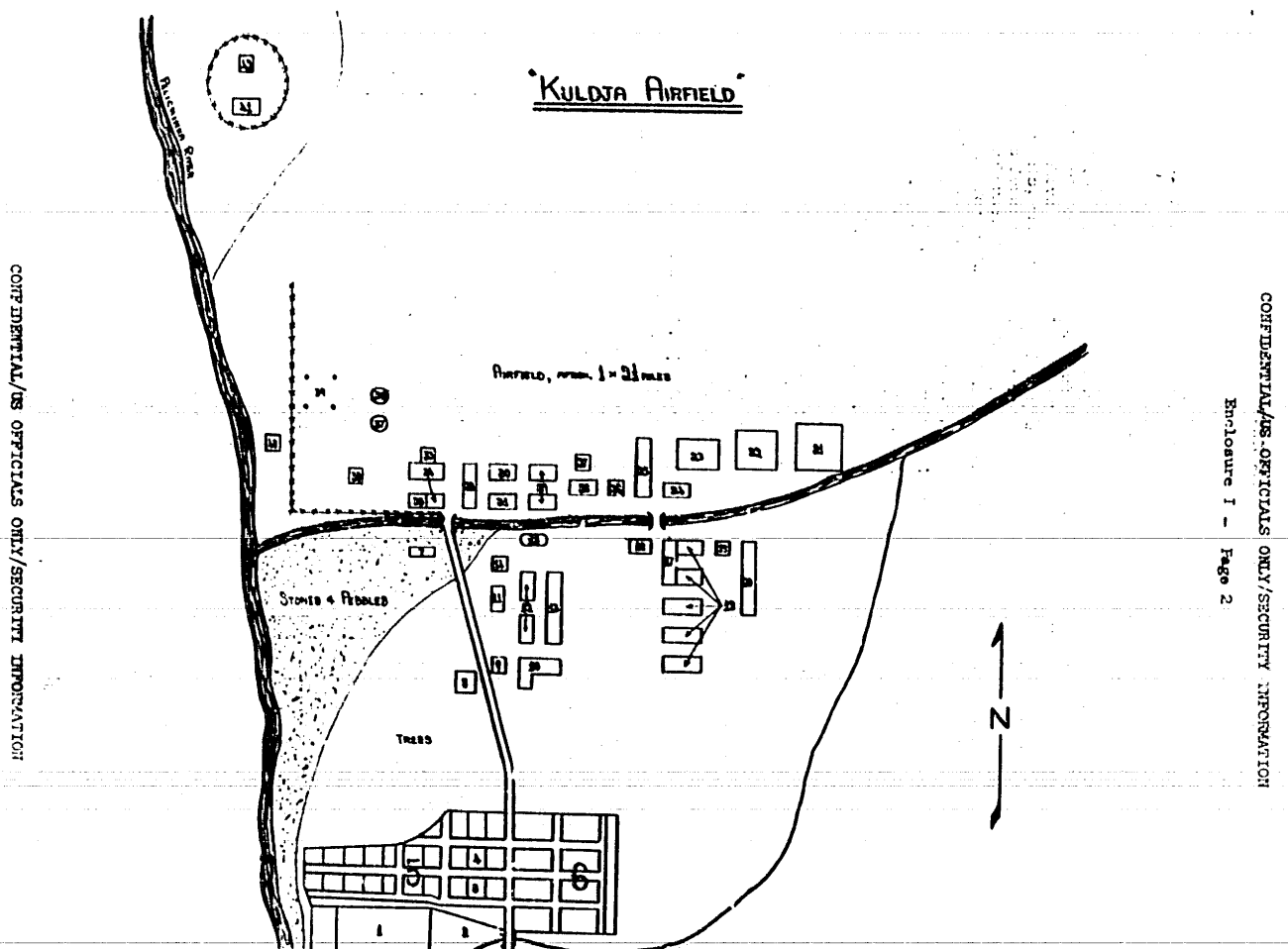
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Enclosure I
Key to Map

1. Regional Governor's Residence and Military Headquarters
2. Soviet Consulate
3. Military Warehouse
4. Military Barracks
5. Arimbak Residential District
6. Baikul Residential District
7. Warehouse, for small aircraft parts such as rivets, washers, nuts, bolts, etc
8. Residence of a Moslem farmer
9. Warehouse, for coal storage
10. Mess, for Soviet flight instructors and aircraft engineers
11. Residence of Chinese Military Commander Lu Hsiung-Ching. Originally built to be the laundry disinfectant plant
12. Billets for Chinese students other than mechanics
13. Billets for Soviet instructors and engineers
14. Laundry
15. Dirt Swimming Pool for Soviet instructors and engineers and their Chinese students
16. Chinese Military Commander's Office
17. Mess for Chinese mechanics
18. Billets for Chinese mechanics
19. Residence of chief Soviet mechanic
20. Warehouse, for large airplane parts, such as wing sections, etc
21. Hangar, 5 meters high, 15 wide and 50 long. Planes could enter and leave from the east-west sliding doors
22. Hangar, 5 meters high, 12 wide and 30 long
23. Hangar, 5 meters high, 10 wide and 30 long
24. Billets for Moslem laborers
25. Offices and Classrooms of Soviet instructors and engineers
26. Ice House for storing foods
27. Residence
28. Mess for Chinese students other than mechanics
29. Two Chinese Military Office Buildings
30. Building, housing steam tanks for washing planes
31. Barber Shop
32. Hamina Ticket Office and Passenger Waiting Rooms
33. Residence and Offices of Soviet Meteorologist
34. Barracks for Chinese Military Guards
35. Mess, for Chinese Military guards
36. Weather cock
37. A wooden platform and post (total height about 7 meters), with weather instruments attached to both. The Soviet meteorologist, a weatherman, would periodically check the instruments and note the results on graphs
38. Wooden Guard Observation Tower, about 12 meters high
39. Four underground tanks containing aviation gasoline. Over each tank there was a low dirt mound with an air vent protruding from the center.
40. Chinese Radio Transmission Station
41. Soviet Radio Transmission Station, located on a raised portion of land
42. Billets for Soviet radio operators

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